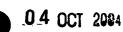
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY





PCT 10-Rec'd PUTA



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

510,130

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 62782	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)				
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (day/month/year)			
PCT/FR2003/001079	04 avril 2003 (04.04.2003)	05 avril 2002 (05.04.2002)			
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04L 12/56					
Applicant	THALES et al.				
 This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 					
2. This REPORT consists of a total of	5 sheets, including this cover	sheet.			
This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).					
These annexes consist of a total of sheets.					
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:					
I Basis of the report					
II Priority					
III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability					
1 17					
Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement					
VI Certain documents cited					
VII Certain defects in the international application					
VIII Certain observations on the international application					
	Date of completion	of this report			
Date of submission of the demand					
10 octobre 2003 (10.1)	0.2003) 04	August 2004 (04:08.2004) -			
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer				
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.				

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINA	EXAMINATION REP

his report h nder Article	has been drawn or 14 are referred to i	n the basis of (I in this report as	Replacement shee "originally filed"	ts which have been furnished to the re and are not annexed to the report	eceiving Office in response to an invitation since they do not contain amendments.):
	the international				
\boxtimes	the description,			, as originally filed,	
		pages		, filed with the demand,	
		pages		, filed with the letter of	,
		pages		, filed with the letter of	
\bowtie	the claims,	Nos		, as originally filed,	
		Nos		, as amended under Article 19),
		Nos		, filed with the demand,	
					26 July 2004 (26.07.2004)
		Nos		, filed with the letter of	
\boxtimes	the drawings,	sheets/fig	1/3-3/3	, as originally filed,	
		sheets/fig		, filed with the demand,	
		sheets/fig		, filed with the letter of	
		sheets/fig		, filed with the letter of	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
The amend	lments have result	ted in the cance	llation of:		
The amend	iments have result the description,			_	
The amend	the description,	pages			
The amend	the description,	, pages Nos		_	
	the description, the claims, the drawings,	Nossheets/fig _		_ _	
	the description, the claims, the drawings,	Nossheets/fig _	f (some of) the	_ _	since they have been considered 2(c)).
This to go	the description, the claims, the drawings, s report has been to beyond the disc	Nos sheets/fig established as i	f (some of) the		since they have been considered 2(c)).
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This to go	the description, the claims, the drawings, s report has been to beyond the disc	Nos sheets/fig established as i	f (some of) the as indicated in		since they have been considered 2(c)).

NO

v .	Reasoned statement under Article 35 citations and explanations supportin	5(2) with regard to novelty, g such statement	inventive step or industrial appl	icability;
1.	Statement			
	Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES
		Claims		NO NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-5	YES
		Claims		NO
İ	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES

- 2. Citations and explanations
 - 1. Reference is made to the following document:

Claims

D1: WO-A-95 29544.

Document D1, which is considered to be the prior art closest to the subject matter of claim 1, describes a method for communicating with a redundant system in which the redundant entities are routers.

The subject matter of claim 1 differs from the method known from D1 in that the redundant entities are serial lines.

It follows that the subject matter of claim 1 is novel (PCT Article 33(2)).

The problem that the present invention is intended to solve can therefore be considered to be that of enabling one serial line to be replaced with another serial line belonging to the same group.

The solution involves serial line addressing and is not known or obvious from the cited documents, which disclose only systems wherein the redundant entities are routers.

As a result, the subject matter of claim 1 fulfils the requirements of PCT Article 33(3).

- Claim 3 is the device claim that corresponds to method claim 1 and, as such, also fulfils the requirements of PCT Article 33(2) and 33(3).
- 3. Claims 2, 4 and 5 are dependent on claim 1 or claim 3 and therefore also fulfil, as such, the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step.

Observations with respect to form

- Contrary to the requirements of PCT Rule 5.1(a)(ii), the description does not indicate the relevant prior art disclosed in document D1, nor does it cite said document.
- Claim 3 does not fulfil the requirements of clarity of PCT Article 6 because it is a device claim and should therefore contain device features (means for...) rather than method features.